

KING COUNTY BENCHMARKS



Metropolitan King County *Countywide Planning Policies* Benchmark Program 1999 King County Benchmark Report

Mission

The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor shall recommend to the Metropolitan King County Council a monitoring and benchmarks program to assess progress in meeting Countywide Planning Policies.

- a. The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor shall establish a growth management monitoring advisory committee which shall recommend information to be reported annually to serve as indicators and benchmarks for growth management policies. The annual reporting shall incorporate the economic development policy indicators developed by the Fiscal Impact Analysis and Economic Development Task Force and other indicators as adopted by the Growth Management Planning Council or its successor, and shall consider housing indicators specified in policy AH-5. King County shall report the adopted growth management benchmarks annually.
- b. The Growth Management Planning Council or its successor should conduct a comprehensive evaluation to assess implementation of the Countywide Planning Policies. The evaluation should be initiated as indicated by results of the monitoring program, but no earlier than five years after adoption of the Phase II Amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies. The evaluation shall include opportunities for public involvement.
- c. If the purposes of these Planning Policies are not being achieved as evidenced by results of benchmarks and monitoring reports, the Growth Management Planning Council or its successor will reconvene at the request of a party to discuss, evaluate and recommend actions to achieve the purposes of the Policies.

Metropolitan King County Countywide Planning Policies: Framework Policy 1; Step 6.

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The **King County Countywide Planning Policies Benchmark Report** is a product of the Metropolitan King County Growth Management Planning Council. The **Report** is published annually by the King County Office of Regional Policy and Planning. A companion to this **Report**, is the **King County Annual Growth Report** produced by King County Office of Budget and Strategic Planning. Both **Reports** are available on the Internet at <http://www.metrokc.gov>.

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The Benchmark System for the *Countywide Planning Policies*

Background

In 1990 the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (GMA). For the first time in the State's history, all urban counties and their cities were required to develop and adopt comprehensive plans and regulations to implement the plans. To achieve an interjurisdictional coordinated countywide plan, GMA further required that King County and its 35 cities first develop framework policies, the King County *Countywide Planning Policies*, to guide the development of the jurisdictions' plans.

The *Countywide Planning Policies* (CPPs) define the countywide vision for the county and cities' plans. The policies were developed by the Growth Management Planning Council, a group of 15 elected officials, representing all King County citizens, adopted by the Metropolitan King County Council and ratified by the cities in 1994.

Purpose

The *Countywide Planning Policies* are primarily goals that, if properly implemented, should improve the quality of life in King County during the next twenty years.

When the members of the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) approved the policies, they expressed an interest in creating a system that would tell future decision makers whether or not the policies are achieving their intended outcomes. The 1999 Benchmark Report is the fourth annual account to monitor the CPPs.

The purpose of creating a benchmark system is to provide the GMPC, other policy makers and the public with a method for evaluating jurisdictions' progress in implementing the *Countywide Planning Policies*. The system for the Benchmark Report was established by stating the desired outcomes of the CPPs; selecting relevant Indicators for each outcome, and then identifying quantifiable levels of achievement, or targets, for some of the Indicators.

Why a Benchmark Report for the Countywide Planning Policies?

Generally, the Indicators that the Benchmark Committee has produced should be used as the GMPC originally intended: to enable future decision makers to determine whether or not the *Countywide Planning Policies* are being implemented in a way which achieves their intended outcomes.

The Benchmark System, which includes these Indicators, should also provide early warning if the policies are not having their desired effects. In that case, the system should provide sufficient information to enable policy-makers to determine whether different actions to implement the policies are needed, or whether minor or major revisions to the policies are required. More specifically, the Benchmark System should be used to help the jurisdictions of King County establish priorities, take joint actions, and direct resources to solve problems identified in the *Countywide Planning Policies*.

Data Sources in the Benchmark Report

The Benchmark Committee strives to provide the best data available for the Indicators to track the *Countywide Planning Policies* as adopted in 1994. In order to ensure data reliability, the Benchmark Committee will revise and, if necessary, correct data on an annual basis, when new and better sources become available.

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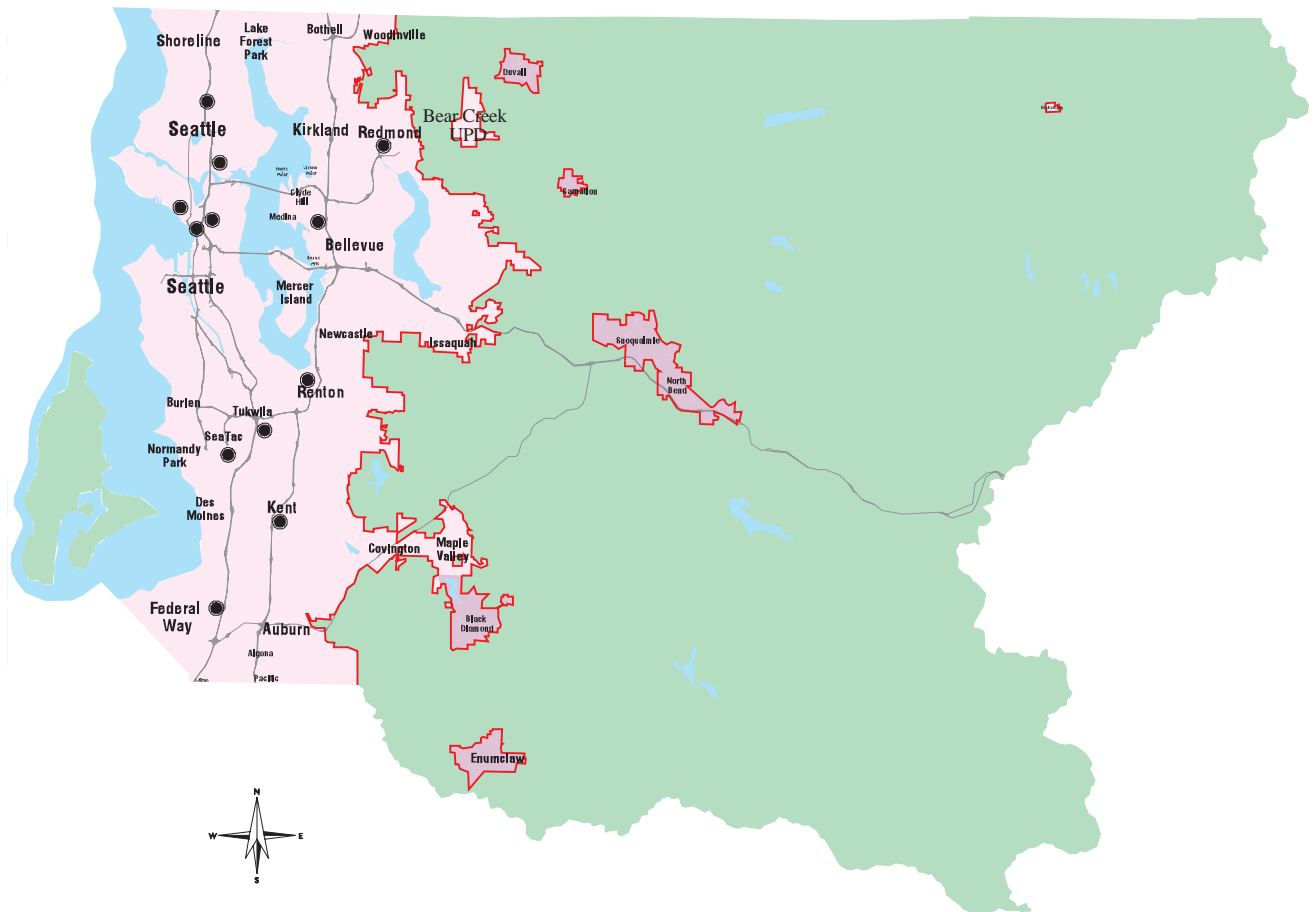
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1999 King County Benchmark Report

Countywide Planning Policies

20 Year Growth Plan



-  Rural and Resource Lands
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